To determine the right sealer for an old, pre-sealed basement slab, you must first perform a water drop test. Splash a small amount of water on the floor. If the water beads up, an old topical sealer is still active and blocking products. If it absorbs quickly, you can apply a compatible water-based penetrating sealer or a reactive silicate densifier like Ghostshield Concrete Sealer. YouTube · CoverTec Prod… +2

Checking the Old Sealer

- **Topical/Film-forming (Acrylic or Epoxy):** If water beads, a new penetrating sealer will fail because it cannot soak in. You must strip or chemically etch the old coating off first, or apply a compatible top-coat if you are certain of the chemical base. YouTube · CoverTec Prod… +1
- **Penetrating (Silane/Siloxane or Silicate):** If the water absorbs, the old seal has worn down. You can apply a fresh coat of a water-based penetrating sealer. YouTube · CoverTec Products

Recommended Products based on Condition

- **For porous, unblocked concrete (water absorbs):** Use a deep-penetrating reactive sealer like RadonSeal Standard or a densifier/waterproofer hybrid like Lithi-Tek 9500 to lock the pores from within. RadonSeal +1
- **If an old acrylic film remains and cannot be stripped:** You may need to clean it thoroughly and re-coat with a matching breathable acrylic, though opinions on putting new product over old mystery sealers vary.